

Articles That Lost

disaster to get them to change their minds," Ritter said.

Article 24 which requested the town to appropriate \$625,000 to construct and furnish a new sub fire station on the northeasterly side of Route 3A was easily rejected, 157 to 69. Although John Reardon of the Fire Station Study Committee apologized to the people for bringing such a high price tag before them, Architect James Fitzgerald explained that the escalated figure represented "a very simple station, not an elaborate building."

Reardon also outlined the necessity of more central fire protection for the town which would be accommodated by the Route 3A sub station.

Fire Chief Charles Piepenbrink commented recently, "It's a damn shame it didn't go through. Any savings we make in reducing the size of the (planned) building or by finding a new location will be eaten up by inflation."

Chairman of the Fire Station Study Committee Lot Bates agreed that the proposed plan may have been "a little too ambitious" and predicted the committee will discuss the possibility of a smaller station. "It's a matter of maintaining what we have and housing a new pumping engine (which the town should be receiving within the year) that won't fit anywhere."

The town purchased the engine last year; it has to have a place to put it," Bates doesn't think a new fire station is a losing battle thus far.

The water main article, Article 28, which was defeated 305 to 138, requested \$65,000 to install a water main on Route 3A in a northerly direction from King Street to 110 Chief Justice Cushing Highway. Proponents of this article argued that there wasn't adequate fire protection there, nor sufficient water supplies to attract new businesses along the highway.

Selectman Chairman Arthur Clark said last week that residents who want to be served should agree to pay betterments, a stipulation left out of the article which required a two-thirds vote. Clark had predicted before Town Meeting that if such a clause had been included, the article might have passed with only a majority vote. He said, however, that he expects to see water extended there in the future.

Water Commissioner Chairman William Montouri commented at Town Meeting that a distribution study was about to begin in Cohasset and that extensions would be done on a priority basis. Planning Board Chairman Glenn Pratt spoke for his board, advising against a piecemeal water extension and suggested waiting for the results of the distribution study.

Water Superintendent Edwin Pratt had no comment to make on the matter this week, except to reiterate the fact that the study should be under contract within this week. "I'll sit here until I'm

told what to do," Pratt said.

Another big change for the town that wasn't meant to be appeared in Article 32, which asked the town to reduce the size of the School Committee from six to five members. Proponents of the article list reasons for the change such as eliminating tie votes bettering the committee's efficiency and generally improving school board operations.

One proponent said this week that the issue is not over and predicted that the Government Structure Study Committee, who recommended the reduction at Town Meeting, will continue to seek streamlining of town boards. "Change comes very hard," said the proponent and ex-school committee member,

who still feels that tie votes are discouraging and hamper the proper functioning of the board. As for the argument that six members can more easily carry the board's load of work, this proponent said that inordinate overloads have been brought upon the members themselves, most unnecessarily.

Article 35, the sewer treatment plant article, which when defeated prohibited a vote from being taken on Article 36, marked the demise of the next phase of consideration of plans and specifications for the facility.

At Town Meeting spokesman Sewer Commissioner John Hobbs enumerated the

reasons and needs for a new sewer treatment facility. He noted the numerous sewer studies that have been made throughout the century in Cohasset, all pointing toward positive sewer action. He outlined what his board found to be the best solution for the town, the proposed site and plan devised by Metcalf and Eddy. This plant would alleviate the overload of the present plant and would improve the quality of effluent which is currently being discharged.

Hobbs stated last week that the town may now be faced with the sewer alternative the state recommends, possibly bearing the brunt of the costs. (Cohasset's share of the \$12.7 Metcalf and Eddy project would have been \$3.9; the remainder of the funds

would have come from federal and state agencies.) The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued Cohasset a schedule by which the town must expand sewage treatment facilities and extend outfall in the harbor.

Hobbs said he was encouraged to see that the vote was as affirmative as it was (the vote was 133 to 246) and feels that the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners will have to continue to stress the project's importance.

"The subject will have another day," Hobbs said, although he couldn't say when that time might be. "Big Brother won't let us forget it," he said. He added that in a year there will be a separate Board of Sewer Commissioners and that that would put a different light on things.



CHECKING ROUTE for Ride-A-Bike for Retarded are 12-year-old Mackie Plante and her mother Marie after she completed the course. [Greg Derr photo]

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE PILGRIM CO-OPERATIVE BANK

will be held at the offices of the Bank, No. 48 South Main Street, Cohasset, Massachusetts on Tuesday Evening, May 22, 1979 at 8 o'clock P.M. for the purpose of electing a Clerk of the Corporation for a term of one year, Directors for a term of three years, and for the transaction of such other business as may legally come before the meeting.

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